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Legislative Issues from 2013

Presented by Charlie Pride Supervisor of Cities, Towns & Libraries State Board of Accounts



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Property Taxes HB 1116



- Townships permitted to petition DLGF to increase township levy by amount borrowed in 2012 or 2013, but not both
- Requires DLGF to grant permission for levy increase
- Eliminates requirement that a county auditor notify each political subdivision of the property tax reductions resulting from circuit breaker credit

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- Requires the DLGF to conduct public hearings on a political subdivision's budget, rate, and levy if requested in writing by a taxpayer
- Requires a study of whether public libraries' budget and levies should remain subject to review by an elected board

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Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) HB 1001

- Require all political subdivisions to report to the DLGF before February of each year all OPEB liabilities, assets, unfunded liabilities, contributions and expenses for the preceding year
- Benefits offered after retirement other than retirement plans such as life and health insurance
- Reported on the Gateway

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Rainy Day Fund HB 1145

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- Credit Card Payments to the library may charge a convenience fee not to exceed \$3
- Transfers to Rainy Day Fund
 - Unused and unencumbered funds
 - Excess CAGIT and COIT funds
 - Dormant Funds
 - Other Funds
- Unobligated cash balances may be transferred by resolution; transfer not to exceed 10% of annual budget

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HB 1545 Rainy Day Fund

 Transfers from a debt service fund to Rainy Day fund are prohibited



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La Porte County: HB 1261

- Property tax procedures for assessment that apply to delayed property taxes in 2013
- Payment of taxes by credit, debit or bank card
- 2% discount pay tax within 30 days
- Standard homestead deduction
- Everything explained in tax statement

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Real Property Subject to Tax Sale HB 1568

- Sale of vacant parcel to contiguous residential property owner for \$1, plus the costs incurred by the county to sell the property
- Establishes an Alternative Urban Homesteading Program for Qualified Individuals for tax sale properties



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Child Employment: HB 153 applies only to hours when not in school

- Between 14 and 18 does not require certificate for the following:
 - Farm labor
 - Domestic service
 - Caddie
 - Newspaper carrier
- Between 12 but less than 18 does not require certificate for the following
 - Cannot work on farm except family farm
 - Youth athletic program referee, umpire or official

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 All agreements between state agency or political subdivision and a contractor for procurement of services must be in writing



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Employee Benefits: SB 213

- County, city, town or township employer not required to exceed the requirements of federal or state law on the following:
 - Benefit
 - Term of employment
 - Working condition
 - Attendance and leave policy

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Challenge to Petition Signatures: SB 250

- Each signature page of petition carries:
 - Petition carrier, individual's identification
 - Signed affirmation that signers are eligible to sign
- Can be challenged if requirements not met

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Violation of Disability Parking: SB 387

 Fee increases from \$50 to \$100 for violation



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PERF Membership/Retirement Benefits: SB 526

- When eligible for supplemental retirement benefit
- Reemployment in a position covered by PERF after July 1, 2013 not eligible

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Local Government Reorganization: SB 459

- Can still have same funds and taxing authority
- Reorganization plan specify the elimination of double taxation
- Excess funds used to pay indebtedness of new township government
- DLGF to assist township mergers



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EARN Indiana: HB 1312

- College work-study program
- Year round
- Eligibility of employer
- Can use state dollars to match against federal Work-Study program

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Ghost Employment: HB 1006 Section 498

- Hire employee with duties that do not pertain to operation of governmental entity
- An employee who knowingly or intentionally accepts property from the employer for the performance of duties not related to the operation of the employer
- Level 6 Felony (was a Class D felony)

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Performing Duties Related to Operation, HB 1006 Section 498

- Employee who voluntarily performs services that do not
 - Promote religion, attempt to influence legislation or government policy or attempt to influence elections
 - For the benefit of another governmental entity, exempt organization of IRS 501(c)(3)
 - Approval of supervisor
 - · In compliance with policy or regulation in writing
 - Limits total time during calendar year during the normal hours of employment

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- Level 6 felony committed if derive profit from contract or purchase by government entity (was a Class D felony)
- Disclosure requirements of public servant
- Statement made annually

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Executive Sessions: HB 1102

- Defines "litigation" to include any judicial action or administrative law proceeding under federal or state law
- Other instances for having Executive Sessions where authorized by federal or state statutes
 - Collective Bargaining
 - Purchase or lease of real property

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Other Instances of Authorized Executive Sessions

- Receive information about and interview prospective employee
- Discuss an individual's status as an employee or independent contractor
- For discussion of records classified and confidential
- Discuss job performance evaluation
- To discuss information and intelligence intended to prevent, mitigate, or respond to the threat of terrorism

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Government Accounting Study Committee SB 293

 To study issues concerning state and local government accounting, including issues related to the implementation of generally accepted accounting principles as adopted by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB)

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Other Items

- Disqualification of contractors and vendors doing business with Iran
- Affordable Care Act Penalties
- Gateway Reporting Update
- Payment of Claims
 - Lost Checks
 - Payment by EFT
- Disaster Recovery Plans
- Internal Controls

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